Statement-V

Details of written complaints received by Telephone Department about malfunctioning of Telephone Services in Rajasthan.

S. No.	Name of Telecom District	Complaint received during		
		Nov., 96	Dec., 96	Jan., 97
1.	Ajmer	78	89	78
2.	Bikaner	38	53	54
3.	Nagpur	12	13	12
4.	Churu	36	21	26
5.	Jhunjhunu	10	4	12
6.	Alwar	14	10	17
7.	Jodhpur	41	37	28
8.	Tonk	1	8	23
9.	Jaipur	64	89	163
0.	Bhilwara	4	11	10
1.	Sriganganagar	5	—	—
2.	Bharatpur	15	8	15
3.	Banswara	9	8	6
4.	Kotah	15	16	15
5.	Sirohi	20	17	13
6.	Udaipur	77	55	39
7.	Pali	—	3	4
8.	Barmer	—	1	—
9.	Sikar	—	—	6
0.	Sawai Madhopur	—	—	5

Norms for fixation of Phone Tariffs

455. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the factors which are taken into account to increase phone tariffs;

(b) whether any discusson is held with economists and public representatives before deciding any increase in phone tariffs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The following factors are taken into accounts to increase phone tariffs:—

(i) to mobilise additional resources for accelerating the expansion of Telecom network and to upgrade the existing system to improve quality of service.

(ii) to compensate for large subsidies provided for installing rural telephones for better accessibility.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Policy for allotment of STD/PCO in Andhra Pradesh

456. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the present policy with regard to the allotment of STD/PCO's to educated unemployed youth in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that proper screening of applicants is not being done;

(c) whether the system will be reviewed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) STD PCO are allotted by the STD PCO allotment committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members, and non-official members, one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST Applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(b) No, Sir.

(c and d) No, Sir. The policy has already been reviewed recently.

Expansion of Telephone Exchange at Vegeswarapuram and Polavaram in West Godavari

457. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient expansion of Vegeswarapuram and Polavaram Exchanges in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh is not being done;

(b) the present capacities of Polavaram and Vegeswarapuram telephone exchanges;

(c) whether these two exchanges are proposed to be expanded shortly; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve telecom capacity in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The present capacity of Polavaram is 184 Lines and that of Vegeswarapuram it is 336 Lines.

(c) It is proposed to install 824 Lines C-DOT SBM Exchange at Vegeswarapuram during 1997-98. However, at Polavaram exchange sufficient spare capacity is still available to clear the W/L. This Exchange will be expanded suitably as and when the demand increases.

(d) All the MAXIII type Electromechanical exchanges have been converted into electronic exchanges. During 1997-98, it is proposed to add about 20000 Lines by way of installing 20 electronic exchanges of various sizes and carrying out expansions of existing exchanges at about 9 places.

Post offices in Bihar

458. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of villages without post offices in Bihar during 1995-96 and 1996-97, as on date;

(b) the number of villages in the State having Post Offices, distict-wise, category-wise; and

(c) the number of post offices proposed to be opened during 1996-97 in the State, distict-wise, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) the number of villages without Post Offices in Bihar during 1995-96 and 1996-97 as on date is as under:

Year	No. of villages without Post Office.
1995-96	66718
1996-97 (as on date)	66696